

Appl. No. 10/090,663

Group III, claims 24 and 25, drawn to a method of quantitatively determining the concentration of any molecule having the idiotypic of BR55-2 comprising contacting a sample with anti-idiotypic antibodies, and

Group IV, claims 26 and 27, drawn to a method for a single step immunopurification of BR55-2 antibodies comprising contacting said antibodies with a solid support comprising the anti-idiotypic antibodies (Ab2) and isolating the BR55-2 antibodies.

The Examiner contends that the inventions are distinct from each other because the monoclonal murine internal image anti-idiotypic antibody of Group I can be used in each of the methods of Groups II-IV. In addition, the Examiner contends that the methods of Groups II-IV differ in the method objectives, method steps and parameters as well as the reagents used. Applicants respectfully traverse.

First, in order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect Group I (claims 13-19, 23 and 28) for prosecution. Applicants contend, however, that the Group II claims should be rejoined with the claims of Group I. The prior art search for the claims comprising Group I will identify all prior art that is pertinent to those claims of Group II. Thus, it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine both Group I and Group II claims at the same time. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and rejoining of Group I and Group II.

In view of the above remarks, all of the claims remaining in the case are submitted as defining non-obvious, patentable subject matter.

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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LRS/SWG/sbp
4518-0101P

Respectfully submitted,

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